

Message Text

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

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COMSIXTHFLT

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FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7125

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION AUG 27

REF: BEIRUT 7105

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1. SUMMARY: FRANGIE PROPOSES ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT BE HELD IN

LEBANON. SOME DETAILS ON ARAB LEAGUE-SPONSORED PEACE PLAN. AL DEPUTY KHOLI ACTIVELY IN TOUCH WITH ALL PARTIES. FRANGIE SAYS RECENT U.S. AND FRENCH DIPLOMATIC VISITS INDICATE SUPPORT FOR KFOUR. JUNBLATT, UNDER PRESSURE FROM ALL SIDES, TAKING MORE COMPROMISING ATTITUDE ON AL PEACE PLAN AND APPEARS WILLING TO TALK WITH MODERATE MOSLEM LEADERSHIP AND SARKIS. PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS DIFFER PUBLICLY WITH PLO ON SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINIANS AT DAMOUR. PLO-PHALANGE CONTACTS CONTINUE. KARAME AND CHAMOUN PUBLICLY ATTACK ONE ANOTHER ON QUESTION OF WHO IS FOREIGN MINISTER. MILITARY SITUATION GENERALLY QUIET. SOME INDICATIONS CHRISTIANS MAY SHIFT EMPHASIS TO TRIPOLI AREA. END SUMMARY.

2. ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT. AL DEPUTY KHOLI SAID THAT AL SECRETARIAT IN CAIRO STILL AWAITS RESPONSES FROM SOME MEMBER STATES BEFORE DECIDING PLACE AND DATE OF MEETING. AFTER MEETING WITH FRANGIE AUG 26, KHOLI SAID FRANGIE HAD PROPOSED THAT MEETING BE HELD IN LEBANON, AND THAT HE (KHOLI) PERSONALLY WOULD WELCOME THIS IDEA AND THAT SECURITY WOULD BE NO PROBLEM. CHAMOUN AND PIERRE GEMAYEL MET TO COORDINATE POSITIONS ON THE SUMMIT, AND GEMAYEL DENIED REPORTS THAT PHALANGE WAS OPPOSED TO MEETING.

3. ARAB LEAGUE-SPONSORED PEACE PLAN. WE STILL HAVE NO COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON PEACE PLAN, BUT LETOWTTHH SOURCES SAY PLAN INCLUDES FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS: (1) COMPLETE CEASEFIRE; (2) PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST WITHDRAWAL FROM HIGH METN (AINTOURA, MTEIN, SALIMA AND QURNAYEL), TO BE REPLACED BY AL FORCES; (3) RETURN OF LEBANESE REFUGEES TO NABAA AND BOURJ HAMMOUD AND THE KOURA; (4) NO PALESTINIANS TO VISIT THESE PLACES BEFORE CONCLUSION OF OVERALL LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT; (5) TELL ZAATAR TO BE DISCUSSED SEPARATELY, AFTER APPLICATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS; (6) SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM SOFAR TO MUDAYRIJ AND FROM JEZZINE TO MASHGHARA, TO BE REPLACED BY AL FORCES; (7) REPRESENTATION OF PRO-SYRIAN LEBANESE LEFTISTS IN CEASEFIRE COMMITTEE; AND (8) ROUND TABLE UNDER AEGIS OF SARKIS. PLAN TO BE CARRIED OUT OVER THREE OR FOUR MONTHS. WHATEVER THE TERMS OF PLAN, IT CLEAR THAT ALL SIDES ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT YET IN AGREEMENT. JUNBLATT SAID TO OPPOSE PARTICIPATION IN CEASEFIRE COMMITTEE BY PRO-SYRIAN LEBANESE LEFTISTS. IT DIFFICULT TO VISUALIZE RETURN TO CAIRO ACCORDS WITHOUT RESOLUTION OF TELL ZAATAR AT SAME TIME. STILL NO WORD ON POSSIBLE SYRIAN ATTITUDES.

4. ARAB LEAGUE ACTIVITIES. AL DEPUTY KHOLI PUT IN BUSY DAY AUG 26, VISITING SEPARATELY SARKIS, FRANGIE, CHAMOUN

(TOGETHER WITH PIERRE GEMAYEL) AND AMIN GEMAYEL EARLY IN DAY, THEN, BACK IN WEST BEIRUT, JUNBLATT AND SAEB SALAM IN MEETING THAT MASTED UNTIL 0130 AUG 27. MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT WAS THAT SALAM STATED THAT JUNBLATT NO LONGER OBJECTS TO WITHDRAWAL FROM MOUNTAINS, IF PART OF OVERALL PLAN. KHOLI EXPECTED AT MEETING AUG 27 IN ASHRAFIEH OF KFOUR POLITICAL LEADERS (INCLUDING CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL), MILITARY LEADERS, AND AL FORCE COMMANDERS.

5. RIGHTIST VIEWS. AL-MUHARRIR SAYS FRANGIE VIEWS RECENT VISITS BY FRENCH AND AMERICAN DIPLOMATS AS GESTURE OF SUPPORT FOR KFOUR FRONT AND THAT CHAMOUN CLAIMS THIS AS SUCCESS OF HIS ACTIVITY AS FOREIGN MINISTER. AL-MUHARRIR SAYS FRANGIE ASKED TOYPBOTH FRENCH AND AMERICAN PEACE-KEEPING FORCES TO SUPPLEMENT AL FORCES. PHALANGIST RADIO ROSCRIBES AL PEACE PLAN (PARA 4 ABOVE) AS "NEW," AND NOTES THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS WILL BE KEY ELEMENT IN MAKING IT WORK. CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL MET AUG 26, REPORTEDLY TO DISCUSS, IN ADDITION TO AL PEACE PLAN, STEPS TOWARD COORDINATION OF THEIR TWO POLITICAL AND MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS.

6. JUNBLATT'S PRESENT PREDICAMENT. WE UNDERSTAND JUNBLATT'S SOFTER POSITION ON METN WITHDRAWAL (PARA 4 ABOVE) MAY BE IN DEFERENCE TO PALESTINIAN ATTEMPT TO COMPROMISE AT PRESENT TIME. JUNBLATT AND PALESTINIANS PROBABLY DIFFER ON THREE ISSUES, WITH JUNBLATT IN MORE HAWKISH POSITION: (1) METN WITHDRAWAL; (2) INCLUSION OF PRO-SYRIAN LEBANESE LEFTISTS IN NEGOTIATIONS; AND (3) SYRIAN TROOP PRESENCE. JUNBLATT AUG 26 PRESIDED MEETING OF NM AND LAA LEANDERSHIPS WHICH FOCUSED ON ISSUES DIVIDING THEM; CHAFIC WAZZAN SAYS PRIVATELY HE HAS BEEN DELEGATED TO TRY TO ARRANGE MEETING OF JUNBLATT WITH BOTH ISLAMIC GROUP AND NATIONAL UNITY FRONT. KARAME, ACCORDING TO AN-NAHAR AND L'ORIENT, WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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WELCOME MEETING WITH JUNBLATT. L'ORIENT SPEAKS OF POSSIBLE JUNBLATT-KARAME-SALAM-EDDE MEETING. MAJOR JUNBLATT PRESS CONFERENCE AUG 27 MAY REVEAL EVOLVING JUNBLATT ATTITUDES AS RESULT OF GROWING PRESSURES ON HIM FROM HIS PALESTINIAN ALLIES, MODERATE MOSLEM LEADERSHIP, AND CHRISTIAN AND SYRIAN MILITARY FORCES.

7. 9-3 58,8-. . ARAFAT MET WITH ISLAMIC GROUP, INCLUDING KARAME, AUG 26 TO DISCUSS AL PEACE PLAN AND OTHER ISSUES. BOTH AL-MUHARRIR AND LEFTIST DAILY BEIRUT REPORT PALESTINIAN REJECTION FRONT HAS SENT LETTER TO PLO LEADERSHIP OBJECTING TO PLANS TO SETTLE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES FROM TELL ZAATAR, NABAA AND JISR EL BASHA AT DAMOUR AS "A CONFESSIONAL REACTION." REJECTIONISTS PROPOSE, INSTEAD, BUILDING NEW CAMPS, AND PLO FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO RETURN REFUGEES FROM

DAMOUR TO THEIR HOMES. PALESTINIAN-PHALANGE CONTACTS CONTINUE, WITH MEETING AUG 26 BETWEEN ABU HASSAN AND JOSEPH ABU SHARAF OF PHALANGE. ARAFAT, AFTER MEETING WITH SALAM, AGREED TO MEET WITH PIERRE GEMAYEL, ELIAS SARKIS AND SALAM, ACCORDING TO GREEK ORTHODOX BISHOP SALIBI.

8. WHO IS THE FOREIGN MINISTER? BEIRUT PRESS PUBLISHES COMPLETE TEXT OF KARAME LETTER TO UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM REASSERTING NON-CONSTITUTIONALITY OF FRANGIE'S APPOINTMENT OF CHAMOUN AS FOREIGN MINISTER, REAFFIRMING CONTINUED LEBANESE SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AND STATING THAT LEBANESE CONFLICT IS DUE NOT ONLY TO PALESTINIAN QUESTION, BUT TO NUMEROUS INTERNAL LEBANESE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND IDEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AS WELL. CHAMOUN ISSUED INSTRUCTION TO ALL LEBANESE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO HONOR ONLY INSTRUCTIONS OVER HIS OWN SIGNATURE OR THAT OF NAGIB DAHDAH, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY.

9. GROUND SITUATION. RELATIVE QUIET ON ALL FRONTS. IN BEIRUT, SOME FIRE FIGHTS ALONG CONFRONTATION LINE, PARTICULARLY AT AIN EL-RUMANNEH AND IN SOUTHERN SUBURBS NEAR AIRPORT, AND U.S. EMBASSY TOOK SOME SNIPER FIRE. AN-NAHAR REPORTS FIRST CONVOY OF LEBANESE DISPLACED FROM NABAA TO RETURN FROM SYRIAN ON AUG 28. WE HEAR OF EFFORTS IN WEST BEIRUT TO PLACE TELL ZAATAR REFUGEES IN HOTEL DISTRICT AND
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THAT LOCAL POPULATION ACCEPTS IDEA OF LEBANESE IN AREA BUT NOT PALESTINIANS. IN NORTH, PRESS REPORTS FIGHTING IN AREA OF MASKAT AND MONT MICHEL. LEFTIST PRESS CLAIMS LEFTISTS REPELLED ATTACKS ON POSITIONS AT CARMELITE SCHOOL, MAJDALIAH AND ALMA, AND SUCCESSFULLY ASSAULTED CHRISTIAN POSITIONS AT DAHER AL AIN. WE HAVE SOME INDICATIONS THAT CHRISTIANS MAY ATTEMPT FIRST MAKE GAINS IN TRIPOLI AREA BEFORE PURSUING HIGH METN CAMPAIGN. IN METN AREA, HEAVY ARTILLERY FIGHTING. RIGHTIST RADIO REPORTS UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT OVERFLEW AREA AUG 26. IN ALEY CASA, REPORTS OF HEAVY ARTILLERY EXCHANGES BETWEEN ALEY AND KAHALE.
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